

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7725

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SREF OAS BF

SUBJ: ADDERLEY INTERVIEW: BAHAMIAN MEMBERSHIP IN OAS, RELATIONS  
WITH U.S., HAITIAN REFUGEES

1. FOLLOWING IS AN EDITED VERSION OF AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY  
MINEXTAFF ADDERLEY DURING WEEK OF JAN. 5 TO AN UNIDENTIFIED  
REPORTER OF THE MIAMI HERALD. INTERVIEW APPEARED IN SUNDAY,  
JAN. 11 EDITION OF THE HERALD. FOR CONVENIENCE AND REFERENCE  
PURPOSES, INTERVIEW HAS BEEN BROKEN INTO THREE PARTS AND THE  
PORTION ON THE ABOVE LISTED SUBJECT IS REPEATED BELOW. EMBASSY  
COMMENTS FOLLOW IN SEPTTEL.

Q. YOUR INDEPENDENCE WHITE PAPER IN 1973 SAID THAT AMONG THE  
FIRST THINGS YOU WOULD DO AFTER INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE TO SEEK  
MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN AND THE OAS. YET, IT IS TWO AND ONE HALF  
YEARS AFTER INDEPENDENCE AND YOU STILL HAVE NOT APPLIED FOR  
MEMBERSHIP IN THE OAS. WHY?

A. THERE ARE TWO THINGS WRONG THERE. WE DIDN'T SAY ONE OF  
THE FIRST THINGS WE WOULD DO WOULD BE TO JOIN THE OAS. WE DID  
SAY ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS WOULD BE TO JOIN THE UN. WE  
APPLIED ON THE DAY OF INDEPENDENCE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN.  
MEMBERSHIP IN THE OAS WAS EXPRESSED IN THE LANGUAGE OF FUTURE  
INTENTION.

Q. ASIDE FROM THAT, WHY HAVEN'T YOU APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP

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IN THE OAS?

A. ONE, WE HAVEN'T FULLY EXPLORED ALL OF ITS IMPLICATIONS AND THAT IS PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION. SECOND, VERY SHORTLY AFTER WE BECAME INDEPENDENT IT WAS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT IN THE HEMISPHERE GENERALLY, INCLUDING THE U.S., THERE WAS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF APPREHENSION OVER THE FUTURE OF THE OAS. THAT IS PERHAPS THE BEST EXPLANATION OF WHY THE BAHAMAS HAS NOT SOUGHT TO PUSH THIS MATTER ANY FURTHER.

Q. YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP THEN?

A. NOT AT THE MOMENT.

Q. HOW DO YOU VIEW YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S.?

A. I SUPPOSE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. HAVE BEEN CLOSER CULTURALLY AND ECONOMICALLY THAN THEY WERE WITH THE UK AND MUCH MORE SO THAN ANY OTHER FORMER CARIBBEAN DEPENDENCY OF THE UK. NOTHING HAS HAPPENED SINCE INDEPENDENCE TO CHANGE THAT IN ANY FASHION.

Q. BASED ON YOUR COUNTRY'S EXPERIENCE WITH HAITI AND HAITIAN REFUGEES, WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE HAITIANS THAT ARE NOW APPEARING ON THE FLORIDA COAST CLAIMING POLITICAL PERSECUTION AND OPPRESSION. DO YOU THINK THEIR STORIES ARE LEGITIMATE?

A. WE HAVE FOUND THAT SOME OF THEIR STORIES HAVE BEEN, NOT A LARGE NUMBER BUT A FEW. I SAY A FEW IN A RELATIVE SENSE BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF HAITIANS IN AND OUT OF THE BAHAMAS IN THE LAST 20 YEARS. BUT THERE HAVE BEEN OCCASIONS WHEN A HAITIAN HAS SATISFIED US THAT HE IS ENTITLED TO SOME FORM OF POLITICAL ASYLUM. I DON'T THINK THERE HAS BEEN A CASE SINCE THE FATHER (THE LATE HAITIAN PRESIDENT FRANCOIS "PAPA DOC" DUVALIER) DIED BUT HERE WERE A NUMBER OF CASES BEFORE HIS DEATH.

Q. ARE YOU STILL DEPORTING 400 A MONTH BACK TO HAITI?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE CURRENT FIGURE IS BUT IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT WE HAVE AS MANY AS 400 PER MONTH.

Q. ANY INDICATION THAT THEY ARE BEING PERSECUTED UPON THEIR RETURN?

A. NO. WE'VE NEVER HAD ANY INDICATION FROM ANY SOURCE THAT THERE IS ANY PERSECUTION OF ANY SORT.  
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## Message Attributes

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